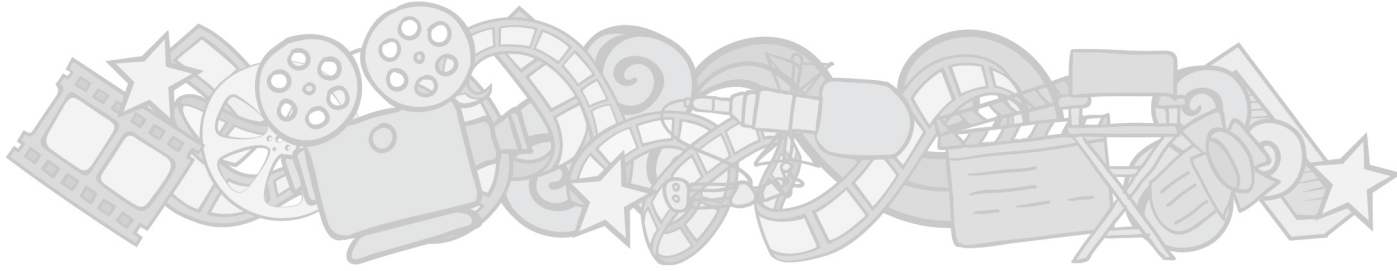


**Dadasaheb Phalke**

The Pioneer of Indian Cinema





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MAHARASHTRA FILM STAGE &  
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[www.filmcitymumbai.org](http://www.filmcitymumbai.org)

**Special Thanks**

Santosh Kshirsagar  
Dean, Sir J J School of Applied Arts, Mumbai

**Advisory Services**

Knowledge provider



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**Photography**

Vishakha Rai Productions

Edited, Designed and Printed by



Website: [www.spentamultimedia.com](http://www.spentamultimedia.com)

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# MESSAGE

**Devendra Fadnavis**  
Chief Minister  
Maharashtra



Mantralaya  
Mumbai-400 032



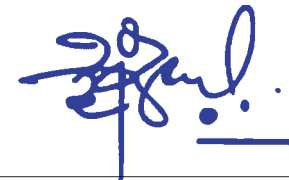
Film entertainment is one of the fastest and most prominent means to reach the public at large. It has long-lasting impact on the public and effectively showcases culture, tradition, history, locations, etc., in an artistic manner.

The journey which started in 1913 has now become a cultural identity of Indians all over the world. People across the globe are enamoured by our cinema which also acts as a medium to showcase our diversity.

Maharashtra has always believed in promoting and encouraging this art by its continuous efforts to make sure that storytellers have world-class technology, amazing talent, robust infrastructure and best locations. As part of our endeavour, the Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited is bringing out a location compendium with a view to facilitating the film fraternity.

I hope this compendium will help film-makers across the globe to find picture-perfect locations for their stories to come alive on screen. It gives a sneak peek into the locations handpicked by industry veterans and would act as a one-stop shop for anyone searching for a perfect location.

I congratulate the Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited for their initiative and wish all success in their future initiatives.



---

**Devendra Fadnavis**  
Chief Minister  
Maharashtra

# MESSAGE



**Vinod Tawde**  
Minister  
School Education, Sports and  
Youth Welfare, Higher and  
Technical Education, Marathi Bhasha,  
Cultural Affairs, Minorities Development and  
Wakf



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA  
Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 032  
[www.maharashtra.gov.in](http://www.maharashtra.gov.in)



Maharashtra has always been a land of opportunity for artists and talent from across the country and is rightly referred to as the "cradle of the Indian film industry". We have been continuously working to make Maharashtra the preferred location for film-makers from across the globe and to make their task easier, the Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited has come up with a compendium which showcases 100 cinematographic locations spread across the State.

Maharashtra abounds in numerous attractions ranging from ancient caves, notable temples, unique hill stations, unspoiled beaches, majestic forts, historical monuments, forests, wildlife, pilgrimage centres, traditional fairs and festivals, etc. Film tourism is an excellent way to promote and showcase the myriad diversity of the State to a large audience. An increasing number of tourists now visit destinations featured in films and television series (film-induced tourism).

The compendium is an excellent repository of eclectic locations across the State, a preview to what one can expect from a particular place. This unique collection of locations and first point of information will come in handy for anyone seeking to shoot in Maharashtra. It is our constant effort to promote Maharashtra as a destination for shooting films – from mainstream to parallel cinema to documentary to commercials and TV serials. This compendium would act as an excellent resource for every genre.

We are sure that Maharashtra will entice you with its beautiful locations, technical expertise and abundant talent present across the State. We expect to make Maharashtra a preferred location to bring to life your stories, thoughts and fantasies.

**Vinod Tawde**

Minister of School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare, Higher and Technical Education, Marathi Bhasha, Cultural Affairs, Minorities Development and Wakf  
Government of Maharashtra

# MESSAGE



**Sumit Mullick**  
Chief Secretary



**Chief Secretary's Office**  
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,  
Madame Cama Marg,  
Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 032.

The media and entertainment industry has been recognised as one of the top 25 sectors in the Make in India national programme for driving growth and innovation. In line with the Make in India initiative, Make in Maharashtra aims to create a business-friendly environment by increasing the ease of doing business for the film industry as well. In fact, the Maharashtra Government has already taken initiative to establish a single window system for film shooting in the State. Maharashtra, the nerve centre of film entertainment in India, now aims to be the 'most shooting-friendly destination'.

Traditionally known as the Land of Saints, Maharashtra has varied customs and traditions that co-exist peacefully. It celebrates major religious festivals from around the world in a peaceful and harmonious manner. It is well-known throughout the country for its rich music, dance and theatre traditions. It offers vivid locations – from forts and beaches to historical monuments and caves – all of which are bound to fascinate cinematographers.

Filming on location generates significant inward investment into regional economies. Filming a town, city or any other location is a great marketing opportunity: it encourages film and television viewers to visit the places they see on screen. Film tourism is now a recognised phenomenon, with film and TV productions inspiring an estimated 40 per cent tourists to select their destinations accordingly. Locations used as locales in films can, on an average, receive 30 per cent increase in tourist footfall.

*Spotlight* encapsulates various aspects of Maharashtra – art and culture, film infrastructure and scenic shooting locales. The compendium will surely enable growth in the tourism and film entertainment sectors.

I congratulate the Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited and the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation for their endeavours to provide the State's film entertainment industry a new platform through this publication.

*Mano Vikasaay, Kala Vilaas*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sumit Mullick'.

**Sumit Mullick**  
Chief Secretary  
Government of Maharashtra



# MESSAGE



**Nitin Gadre**  
*Principal Secretary*



**Tourism and Cultural Affairs Department**  
Mantralaya Annexe Building  
Mumbai 400 032.  
E-mail : [sec.tourism@maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:sec.tourism@maharashtra.gov.in)

Feature films connect with the audience at an emotional level, thereby creating a favourable image and a sense of familiarity for the locations where they are shot. Maharashtra is a picture-perfect state, offering scenic beauty and unexplored locations that can create magic on screen. Any reference to Indian cinema is incomplete without a mention of Maharashtra. With a pool of talent available locally and the encouragement provided by the administration, regional cinema has also grown by leaps and bounds. This compendium is a step forward in making Maharashtra a one-stop shop for all kinds of locales.

The diverse geography of the State, spread along a long coastline, provides excellent locations. Be it the magnetic green hills of Malshej Ghat, the charismatic caves of Ajanta and Ellora or its majestic forts, Maharashtra never ceases to amaze. This compendium brings together the well-known, less-known and unknown locations of the State. The idea of the compendium is to make film-makers aware of the hidden gems within the State.

I believe that this compendium of locations will be a guide for film-makers scouting for perfect locations. The descriptions of the locations, along with pictures and relevant information, will simplify the scouting process.

It is a matter of great pride that the Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited has compiled information about cinematographic locations across different categories on a single platform, which would also be available as an online library.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nitin Gadre'.

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**Nitin Gadre**  
Principal Secretary, Cultural Affairs and Tourism  
Government of Maharashtra

# MESSAGE



**Jayashree. S. Bhoj**, I.A.S.  
Managing Director



**MAHARASHTRA FILM, STAGE & CULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking)



Maharashtra, the entertainment colossus of India, is a major contributor to the Indian film industry in terms of the number of films produced and released. Apart from being the biggest trade and commerce centre in the country, Mumbai is also home to the Hindi film industry. Over 60 per cent of Indian motion pictures, television serials and commercials are produced in Mumbai itself.

Maharashtra has been in the forefront of the Indian film industry and home to stalwarts of Indian cinema like late Dadasaheb Phalke. An early start in the cinematic arena has helped the State create the largest support infrastructure base in terms of production houses, pre- and post-production studios, recording studios, film studios, equipment, technicians, etc. The State is also home to the majority of producers, actors, directors, musicians, art directors, technicians, equipment suppliers, etc. of India.

Maharashtra has vast untapped potential in terms of heritage, culture and nature. We at the Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited have made it our mission to project and promote the State as the most preferred cine shooting location. As part of promoting the State to the film fraternity around the world we are presenting this compendium that delves into locations spread across Maharashtra. It will act as a ready reckoner for all film/TV producers scouting for suitable locations. The compendium has been divided into 13 categories covering adventure, beaches, caves, monuments, wadas, waterfalls, forts, stations and so on and incorporated information on accommodation, connectivity, parking facilities, etc. Apart from this, we have also mentioned authority details, contact information and permissions required.

I am sure *Spotlight – 100 Scenic Locales of Maharashtra* will add another feather to the Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited's effort to highlight the State as a film-friendly destination. Come, let's capture the moments together.

**Jayashree S. Bhoj**  
Managing Director

Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited

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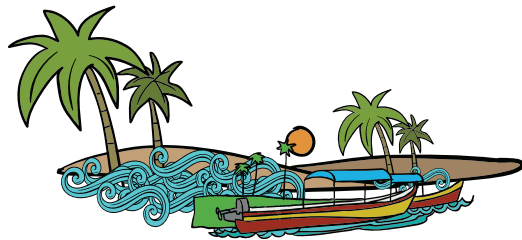
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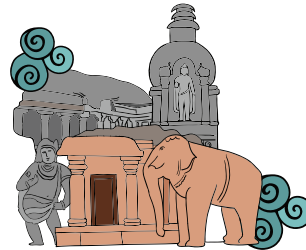
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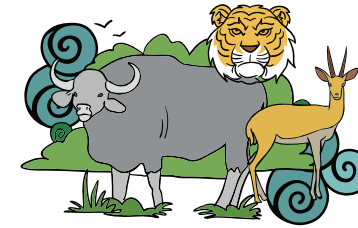
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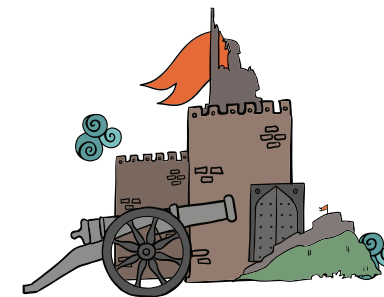
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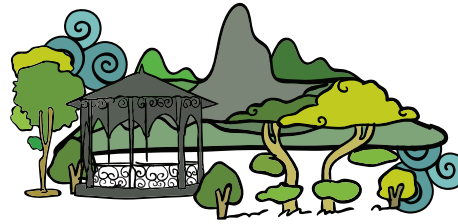
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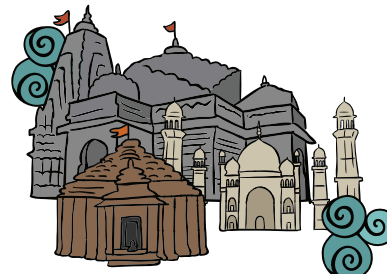
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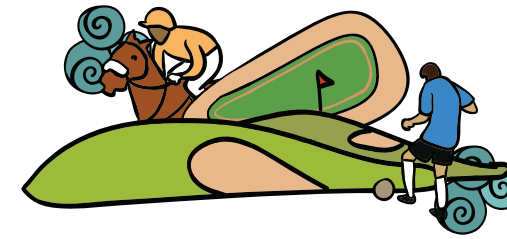
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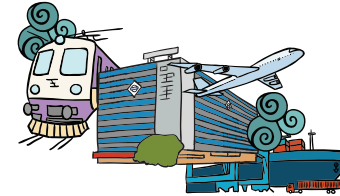
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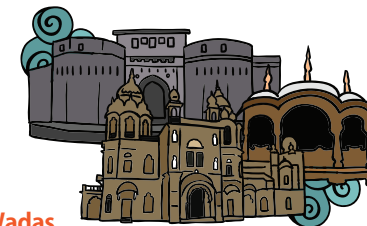
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# MAHARASHTRA UNLIMITED – LAND OF CINEMATIC DREAMS

## DEMOGRAPHY

Located in the western region of India, with a long coastline along the Arabian Sea, Maharashtra shares its borders with six States – Karnataka, Telangana, Goa, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh – and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

It is the third largest State in area in the country and divided into six administrative divisions – Amravati, Aurangabad, Konkan, Nagpur, Nashik and Pune.

## HISTORY

The antiquity of human habitation in the State goes back to the Stone Age, 1.27 million years ago. Over time, Maharashtra was helmed by empires such as the Mauryas, the Satavahanas, the Rashtrakutas, the Western Chalukyas, the Yadavas, the Mughals and the Marathas.

The Marathi-speaking State of Maharashtra came into being on May 1, 1960.

## CLIMATE

Maharashtra has a tropical climate with hot and humid summers and normal winters. It also receives heavy rainfall during the monsoons.

Depending upon the season, dew, frost and hail also occur sometimes in some regions of the State. March, April and May are the hottest months.

## ECONOMY

Maharashtra's economy is driven by international trade, manufacturing, mass media (television, motion pictures, music), aerospace, technology, fashion, apparel, tourism and petroleum. It is one of the most industrialised states in the country and has maintained a leading position in the industrial sector of India.

Mumbai, the capital of the State and the financial capital of India, houses the headquarters of major corporate and financial institutions and also India's main stock exchange.

## TRANSPORT

The State has a large, multi-modal transportation system with the largest road network in India – national highways comprise 4,176 km and state highways 3,700 km.

The Mumbai suburban railway system is the backbone of Mumbai and millions travel every day from one part of the city to another, making it the lifeline of one of the largest metropolises in the world.



### AREA

3,07,713 sq km  
(1,18,809 sq miles)



### DISTRICTS

Districts  
**36**  
Subdivisions  
**109**



### POPULATION

1,12,372,972  
(2011 Census)



### LANGUAGES

Marathi  
Hindi  
English



### TEMPERATURE

(Average)  
High 40°C  
Low 14°C



### AIRPORTS

Domestic Airports  
**4**  
International Airports  
**3**



### RAILWAYS

6,000 km  
Rail Network  
480 km  
Konkan Railway  
Stretch



### HIGHWAYS

National Highways  
**18**  
Major locations well connected through a wide road network of 2,65,000 km



### PORTS

Major Ports  
**2**  
Non Major Ports  
**48**

# MAHARASHTRA UNLIMITED – FESTIVALS

Maharashtra is known for its opulent and larger-than-life festivals. Celebrated with fervour and enthusiasm, colourful customs, rituals and traditions, they reflect true Maharashtrian culture. Some unique and well-recognised festivals are:

**Ganpati Festival/Ganesh Chaturthi**, a ten-day revelry celebrating Lord Ganesh – a symbol of wisdom and good luck – is celebrated in almost every household and at the community level as well. It begins with the installation of Lord Ganesh's idol which is then worshipped daily along with family and friends, until it is taken for immersion to the nearest waterbody.

**Janmashtami**, the festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna, is popularly known as Dahi Handi or Gokulashtami. It is famous for creating some of the highest and most complex human pyramids in the world.

**Gudi Padva**, the Sanskrit name for Chaitra Shukla Pratipada which marks the end of one agricultural harvest and the beginning of another, is celebrated in traditional Maharashtrian households by prominently displaying a *gudi* – a stick covered in a bright cloth adorned with brocade, sugar crystals, neem and mango leaves, a garland of red flowers and covered by a silver or copper pot in an inverted position – symbolising the victory of good over evil.

**Narali Pournima**, also known as Shravani Pournima, Rakhi Pournima or Raksha Bandhan, marks the end of the monsoon season and the beginning of the new fishing season. People offer coconuts to the sea as a symbol of respect and honour.

**Maha Kumbh Mela**, a significant Hindu spiritual gathering held every 12th year, rotates between Ujjain, Haridwar, Allahabad and Nashik, Maharashtra. The Nashik Kumbh Mela considered to be the most sacred of all the festivals.

**Jejuri/ Khandoba**, a six-day festival in which Lord Khandoba is worshipped with turmeric, commemorates the God's win over Margadhirsha. A *jatra* (temple festival and fair) is held in Pembedra on Champa-Shasthi, continuing until the day of the New Moon.

Other festivals include Ashadhi Ekadashi (Pandharpur Chi Vari), Pola, Marbat, etc.

## MUSIC/ART/AGRICULTURAL FESTIVALS

**Banganga Festival**, a two-day music carnival held every year in the city of Mumbai, is a musical tribute to Lord Rama.

**Elephanta and Ellora Festival**, an annual music and dance festival, is celebrated against the backdrop of ancient caves, rock carvings and temples. Renowned artistes perform in this musical revelry, offering a visual treat of heritage and culture.

**Agri Festivals** such as Chickoo Festival (Dahanu), Strawberry Festival (Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad and Pune), Alphonso Festival (Konkan Region), Orange Festival (Amravati) are celebrated to promote local agriculture.

Other music/art festivals are Pune Festival, Kalidas Festival, Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, etc.

Some unique festivals celebrated in Maharashtra include Velas Turtle Festival, Tadoba Eco-Tourism Festival, Sarangkhedha Chetak Festival, Aurangabad International Bird Festival, Lonar Crater Festival and more.



# MAHARASHTRA UNLIMITED – A CAMERA-READY STATE

Maharashtra, the entertainment colossus of India, is a major contributor to the Indian film industry in terms of the number of films produced and released. Apart from being the biggest trade and commerce centre in the country, Mumbai is also home to the Hindi film industry. Over 60 per cent of Indian motion pictures, television serials and commercials are produced in Mumbai itself.

The Lumiere Brothers were the first to introduce cinematography in India in 1896 by showcasing six short films at Watson Hotel, Mumbai. Since then Maharashtra has nurtured the entertainment industry and has contributed significantly by providing considerable talent, infrastructure and opportunity to the sector.

Historically, the State has been associated with film shoots. Various facets of the State have been showcased including the seaside, malls, roads, colleges, churches, stations, hill stations, airports, etc. The State offers a unique blend of history, heritage, art/culture, pilgrimage, nature, cuisines, eco-tourism, safe night life and several unexplored zones.



**RECORDING  
STUDIOS**



**PRE AND POST  
PRODUCTION  
FACILITIES**



**EQUIPMENT  
SUPPLIERS**



**STUDIOS AND  
SHOOTING  
FLOORS**

## LOCATIONS GALORE







## Post-Production

From editing to sound mixing to use of VFX, film production today requires state-of-the-art technology and technical know-how which Maharashtra, with its film, animation and sound recording studios provides all in one place.

## Infrastructure

Maharashtra is in the forefront of providing all resources and infrastructure required in the life cycle of film-making. More than half the movies made in India are produced in the State.

## Pre-Production

Being the hub of the Hindi film industry, Maharashtra provides all kinds of resources and technical know-how for producing any form of media – films, documentaries or advertisements. Film-making is a part of the culture here and finding the right people and technology is quite effortless.

## Studios

Maharashtra has the highest number of film studios, most of them located in Mumbai, the hub of the Hindi film industry. These studios provide readymade sets, locations and outdoor shooting venues in one place, thereby eliminating extra costs involved in shooting in actual locations.

## Locations

The State spoils you in terms of both indoor and outdoor locations. When it comes to outdoor locations, Maharashtra has almost all options – from the Western Ghats, to beaches, waterfalls, forts, palaces, museums, railway stations, and more. One has to just pick according to requirement.

## Talent

Maharashtra is a treasure trove of talent. The finest of scriptwriters, cinematographers, actors, dancers, extras, spot-boys from all over the country form a talent pool that contributes to the process of creating masterpieces on screen.